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### UM hosts Big Sky cross country championships

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um



## sports

UM HOSTS BIG SKY CROSS  
COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

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MISSOULA---

The University of Montana, which is the defending team champion, hosts the Big Sky Cross Country Championships Saturday. The five-mile race will be held at the University Golf Course.

Montana has won or shared the title in five of the last six years, but illness to Doug Darko, last year's third place finisher at the league race, may mean UM is out of the title picture.

"I would consider ourselves as the team to beat with a healthy Doug Darko. Without him we are in trouble because we don't have good depth," UM track and cross country coach Harley Lewis said.

Five members of each team figure in the scoring and Lewis said Montana's fifth runner will probably finish well back in the field. "We can score pretty well with our first four runners. If we had Darko running well we would have five good cross country runners and a shot at first place," Lewis said.

Darko, a junior from Great Falls, is recovering from the effects of mononucleosis. He missed two weeks of training, but has been doing some work the last 10 days and may enter Saturday's race though he is still weak and not in top condition.

"We won't know until Friday whether he can run or not," Lewis said.

With Montana out of contention, Idaho State, Boise State and Weber State are the picks to battle for first place.

Weber's Al Yardley, Idaho State's Vince Capell and Montana's Hans Templeman and John O'Neill will battle it out for the individual title, according to Lewis.

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# UM HOSTS BIG SKY CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS--2

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Lewis said he was pleased with Montana's 22-33/meet win over Idaho last Saturday. "The adverse weather makes it hard to judge much about the race, but I was pleased with Templeman's winning effort. He ran easily and didn't have to work very hard," Lewis said.

The course was covered with two inches of snow and a 15 mile-per-hour wind meant a chill factor of -10 degrees.

Saturday's race will begin at 11 a.m. A dinner for the coaches is scheduled for 7 Friday evening in the University Center.

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